

Shufeldt has for some time contended that while Swifts and Humming-birds have some superficial resemblances, they are in no way closely related, and should constitute two separate suborders, and that the Swifts are in reality only highly modified Swallows. In 'The Ibis' for January, 1893, he has presented his evidence anew and discussed the subject at length. In the following number of 'The Ibis' (July, 1893) Mr. Lucas has presented at moderate length the counter-evidence, taking apparently well-founded exceptions to a number of Dr. Shufeldt's propositions. In this connection Mr. Lucas objects to "sweeping generalizations based on the examination and comparison of a limited number of local forms and the assumption that certain questions have been definitely answered when we are really just beginning to gather in the facts that shall make such answer possible."—J. A. A.

Ridgway on New Birds from Mexico and the West Indies.—Mr. Ridgway has recently described two new subspecies of *Basileuterus rufifrons* from Mexico,¹ namely, *B. r. jouyi*, from San Luis Potosi, and *B. r. dugesi* from Guanajuato, western Mexico. Also a new species of *Odontophorus* (*O. consobrinus*) from Mirador, southern Mexico,² allied to *O. guttatus*. Mr. Ridgway has also described two new Swifts,³ one, *Chaetura lawrencei*, from Grenada, West Indies, the other, *Cypseloides cherriei*, from Costa Rica. The first is allied to *C. guianensis* Hartert, and belongs to the *C. cinereiventris* group, to which Mr. Ridgway considers both must be referred as subspecies of *C. cinereiventris*. The *Cypseloides cherriei* finds its nearest relative in *C. brunneitorques*.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on Japanese Birds.—Dr. Stejneger has recently made two additions⁴ to the Japanese avifauna, one being *Tringa temminckii* (Leisl.), from the neighborhood of Tokyo, the other *Acanthopneuste ijmae* sp. nov., from Seven Islands, Japan, allied to *A. coronatus*. He has also published a short paper⁵ on a specimen of Gray Shrike from Yezo, which he refers to *Lanius sibiricus* (Bogd.), and incidentally considers the relationship of *L. borealis* and *L. sibiricus* to *L. excubitor*, regarding

¹ Descriptions of Two New Forms of *Basileuterus rufifrons*, from Mexico. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XV, p. 119.

² Description of a supposed New Species of *Odontophorus* from southern Mexico. By Robert Ridgway. *Ibid.*, XVI, pp. 469, 470.

³ Description of two supposed New Species of Swifts. By Robert Ridgway. *Ibid.*, XVI, pp. 43, 44.

⁴ Two Additions to the Japanese Avifauna, including description of a New Species. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XV, pp. 371-373.

⁵ On the Status of the Gray Shrike, collected by Capt. Blakiston, in Yezo, Japan. By Leonhard Stejneger. *Ibid.*, XVI, pp. 217, 218.